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Washington State
Department of Social and Health Services

Division of Developmental Disabilities

Family Support Opportunity



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Family Support Opportunity is a different approach to the old Family Support program. The State of Washington implemented this new program on a pilot basis in 1996 due to the rising number of unserved families on the Family Support waiting list.

The intent of the program is to:

Encourage communities to support the needs of children and adults with developmental disabilities

Recognize the contributions families make and build on these foundations

Provide supports that assist and stabilize families

Complement other public and private resources

Provide assistance to as many families as possible

Family Support Opportunity has helped families in many unique ways. The following short stories are just a few examples of how families have benefited.

A family had a need for a very specialized car seat that cost close to one thousand dollars. Without this seat, it was very dangerous to transport their child. Thanks to their helpful Community Guide, the family was able to obtain the car seat from an organization—absolutely FREE!!

A mother wanted her son to have the opportunity to participate in a martial arts class and swimming class. With the help of their Community Guide, the family was able to access a scholarship from the YMCA for the entire family. The child is now an active participant in these activities.

Three families needed help in toilet-training their children. With the help of their Community Guide, they met and shared the expense for the classes. Not only did this save them money out of their family support dollars, it made the experience more fun and gave them an opportunity to network with each other.





For families who are eligible for the program, the following services are available:

Case Management

- Meets with the family and assesses the individual's needs.
- Develops a plan with the family.
- Helps connect to appropriate resources.

Community Guide

- Works in partnership with the family and case manager.
- Connects the family to natural supports and community-based resources.
- Assists with empowering the family to problem solve financial and emotional concerns.

Flexible Funds/ Short Term Intervention

- Funds are available to assist families in obtaining necessary supports after all other sources have been exhausted.
- Case manager and community guide assist in evaluating needs and accessing funds.
- Funds are limited to purchasing prescribed supports.

Flexible Funding Can Be Utilized For:

- Respite care, community activities used as respite, attendant care and nursing.
- Therapeutic services such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, behavior management therapy, communication therapy, or counseling related to the disability.
- Training and supports such as parenting classes and disability-related support groups.
- Specialized equipment and supplies not covered by any other sources (e.g. Medicaid).

- Environmental modifications, including home repairs, needed due to your child's disability.
- Medical/dental services not covered by any other resource, including the payment of deductibles, co payments and premiums for your child.
- Special formulas or specially prepared foods not covered by other sources (e.g. Medicaid).
- Parent/family counseling dealing with issues around the disability.

Medicaid Personal Care

Persons who are eligible for Medicaid may also be eligible for Medicaid Personal Care services. Medicaid Personal Care assists families in the following ways:

- Provides assistance to families based on personal care needs assessment.
- Supports individuals with in-home support around personal care tasks (i.e. toileting, bathing, personal hygiene, etc).
- Family chooses a provider contracted with DDD to help support family member.

Nondiscrimination. *It is the policy of the Department of Social and Health Services that no person shall be subjected to discrimination in this agency or its contractors because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, creed, marital status, disabled or Vietnam Era Veteran status, or the presence of any physical, mental, or sensory handicap.*

